

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SAJ-01

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R 071455Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4797

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

CINCUSAFE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 6855

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: REPORTED RESUMPTION OF ISTANBUL-ATHENS AND IZMIR-ATHENS
FLIGHTS BY TURKISH AIRLINES

REF: (A) ATHENS 9351 (DTG 031350Z SEP 76), (B) ANKARA 6810
(DTG 031450Z SEP 76), (C) ANKARA 6766 (DTG 021444Z SEP 76)

1. MORNING SEPTEMBER 7 EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH MFA OFFICER IN
CHARGE OF AEGEAN AIR SPACE MATTERS, GAZNE SOYSAL, RECENT
REPORTS THAT TURKISH AIRLINES (THY) HAD APPLIED FOR
PERMISSION TO RESUME FLIGHTS BETWEEN ISTANBUL-ATHENS AND
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IZMIR-ATHENS. SOYSAL CONFIRMED THAT THY HAD APPLIED TO THE

GREEK CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES FOR SUCH PERMISSION. THE TURKISH APPLICATION INDICATED A CIRCUITOUS ROUTING FOR BOTH FLIGHTS, I.E., ISTANBUL-SOFIA-ATHENS, WITH NO STOP IN SOFIA AND IZMIR-THODES-ATHENS, WITH NO STOP IN THODES.

2. SOYSAL SAID GREECE HAD APPROVED THE THY REQUEST BUT HAD ATTACHED SEVERAL CONDITIONS. IN THE CASE OF THE IZMIR-THODES-ATHENS ROUTE, GREECE INSISTED THAT INITIATION OF FLIGHTS BY THY BE ACCOMPANIED BY GOT STATEMENT SAYING THAT NOTAM 714 WAS BEING WAIVED IN THIS CASE. GOT WILL NOT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT AND THEREFORE CONSIDERS THIS CONDITION AS AN EFFECTIVE REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE IZMIR-ATHENS FLIGHT.

3. THE OTHER CONDITIONS WERE NON-POLITICAL IN NATURE AND ACCORDING TO SOYSAL CREATED NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR TURKISH AUTHORITIES. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT THY AUTHORITIES WERE CONCERNED THAT THE ISTANBUL-SOFIA-ATHENS ROUTE WOULD NOT BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE FOR THY. DESPITE THE FACTS THAT A 30 PERCENT FARE INCREASE HAS BEEN AGREED TO FOR THIS ROUTE, AND THAT A DAILY AIR FRANCE FLIGHT IS CHRONICALLY OVER-BOOKED, THY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT CAN MAKE THE ROUTE PROFITABLE. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED, THERE IS VERY LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THY FLIGHTS BETWEEN ISTANBUL AND ATHENS WILL BE RESUMED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
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